Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Definitions for early India & China

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| Mandate of Heaven | Divine right of rule in China |
| Huang-He River | Known as the Yellow River – was the inhospitable territory chosen by the early inhabitants of China to live because of its protection. |
| Sanskrit | The extinct language of ancient India. Spoken between fourteenth and fifth centuries BCE. Still used today in classic literature. |
| Castes | A rigid social class system in Hinduism. |
| Nirvana | In Buddhism, spiritual enlightenment. |
| Buddha | Hindu for “enlightened one." |
| Asoka | King of the Maurya dynasty. He ruled nearly the entire subcontinent of India. He also was instrumental in the spread of Buddhism after his |
| Confucius | Chinese philosopher and writer of The Analects, a collection of moral and social teachings, including the concept of the Five Relationships. Also known as Kong Fu Zi. |
| Silk Road | Trade route from China to the Middle East. |
| Monsoon | Seasonal wind and rains of South and East Asia |
| Brahmans | In Hinduism, the name given to the oneness of the universe, highest social caste |
| Dharma | The act of fulfilling one's duty in life. Associated with Hinduism and Buddhism. |
| Four Noble Truths | Siddhartha's Gautama philosophy of the nature of human suffering and its relation to desire is articulated by four statements |
| Maurya Empire | Dynasty that united most of India under the rule of Chandragupta Maurya. Its greatest ruler, Asoka, converted to Buddhism and was instrumental in its spread. |
| Daoism (Taoism) | A belief system in China where there is an emphasis placed on the link between people and nature. |
| Yin-Yang | Symbol used to illlustrate the natural harmony that exists in the world. Everything must have an opposing force that allows the harmonious universe to exist. |
| Han Dynasty | A golden age of China. This dynasty expanded under Wudi into Northern Vietnam and Korea and expanded trade along Silk Road. |
| Vedas | A Hindu holy book which is a collection of Aryan hymns that were transmitted orally before being written down in the 6th century BCE. |
| Sudras | Lowest caste of the Hindu system. |
| Reincarnation | The rebirth of a soul into another body. |
| Siddhartha Gautama | Indian philosopher and the founder of Buddhism. |
| Eightfold Path | Code of behavior for followers of Buddhism. |
| “Golden Age” | A time in a culture of high achievement in arts, literature, and science. Generally occurs in times of peace. |
| Legalism | Belief system that has as core the strict adherence to law. Favored by Emperor Qin |
| Analects | Collection of moral and social teachings of Confucius, including the concept of the Five Relationships. |
| Karma | Actions in this life resulting from the consequences of a previous life’s actions. Associated with Hinduism and Buddhism. |
| Emperor Qin | Emperor of China who unified the country after the Warring States. Built terracotta warriors for his tomb and the Great Wall of China. |
| Ethnocentrism | Belief that one’s culture is superior to others. |
| Gupta Empire | Ruling family in India during its golden age. Responsible for many achievements. |
| Mohenjo-Daro | Early city of Harrapan civilization along Indus. Noted for its urban planning |
| Aryans | Nomadic warriors from Central Asia who migrated into India around 1500 BCE. They are responsible for many aspects of current Indian culture including their language, sacred texts called the Vedas, and a system of government that later evolved into the caste system. |
| Terrace Farming | he cutting out of flat areas (terraces) into near vertical slopes to allow farming. Terrace farms appears as steps cut into a mountainside. This adaptation allowed both the early Chinese, and the Inca of Mesoamerica to grow enough food for their large populations. |
| Filial piety | A part Confucianism where respect is paid to the parents. |
| Emperor Wu Ti | Han Emperor responsible for expanding the empire and introducing the civil service exam. |
| Five Relationships | Confucian philosophy about social order where everyone has a place and respect is paid to elders, parents, and the government. The relationships are, ruler to ruled, father to son, older brother to younger brother, husband to wife, friend to friend. |
| Hinduism | A polytheistic religion in which salvation is achieved through a spiritual oneness of the soul, atman, with the ultimate reality of the universe, Brahma. To achieve this goal, the soul must obtain moksha, or liberation from the samsara, the endless cycle of birth, death, and rebirth. |